

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /006 R

DRAFTED BY S/S:DANDERSON:JLH
APPROVED BY S/S - MR. ANDERSON
-----054134 251634Z /50
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 202874 TOSEC 090144

EXDIS/KOOLAIID/FOR TARNOFF/SPIEGEL FM ANDERSON/WISNER

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: MISCELLANY

1. THE NSC HAS INFORMED US THAT THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH MR. VANCE HAS BEEN SET FOR SUNDAY FROM 4-6:00 P.M. THIS IS NOW FIRM.
2. THE NSC IS ATTEMPTING TO GET TOGETHER A MEETING ON SALT EARLY NEXT WEEK. WE HAVE STRESSED THAT IN ORDER FOR THE SECRETARY TO PARTICIPATE, THE MEETING SHOULD BE PRIOR TO TUESDAY AFTERNOON.
3. THE PRESIDENT MET WITH SENATOR BYRD ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 23. DOUG BENNET HAS GIVEN US A PRELIMINARY REPORT, TO THE EFFECT THAT THE MEETING FOCUSED ENTIRELY ON PANAMA. BYRD REPORTEDLY AGREED TO HOLD OPEN THE OPTION OF TAKING UP PANAMA THIS YEAR. HE ENDORSED THE PRESIDENT'S IDEA FOR A MEETING WITH THE LATIN AMERICAN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT FOR THE PANAMA TREATY SIGNING. HE WAS SKEPTICAL

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ABOUT THE TREATY'S PROSPECTS IN THE SENATE BUT WAS PREPARED TO HELP. WE WILL BE CHECKING FURTHER TO SEE WHAT MORE WE CAN ADD TO THIS PRELIMINARY ACCOUNT.

4. WE HAVE BEEN CHECKING WITH THE VARIOUS PEOPLE ON THE AWACS PREPARATIONS. WE ARE REASONABLY ASSURED THAT

EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IS BEING DONE THAT SHOULD BE DONE.
HOWEVER DOD IS STILL WORKING ON THE COST ESTIMATES FOR
THE ALTERNATIVES TO AWACS. FROM WHAT WE HEAR IT IS
CONCEIVABLE THESE ESTIMATES MAY SHOW THAT AWACS IS BY
FAR THE MOST EXPENSIVE OF ALL POSSIBLE SYSTEMS. DOUG
BENNET THINKS THAT WE WILL HAVE TO HAVE ONE FINAL
LOOK AT THE ENTIRE APPROACH TO THE AWACS STRATEGY SOMETIME
LATE NEXT WEEK. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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